

CHETWODE JOURNAL IN AUCTION 20 [TWC 27(1) p38 2009]

On 3 March 2009, **Richard Winterton Fine Arts Auctioneers** offered for sale the handwritten journal of Lt. Col. Sir George Chetwode, 8th Hussars, detailing his Crimean adventures. The catalogue entry read:

“230A - LT COL SIR GEORGE CHETWODE BART 8TH HUSSARS CRIMEAN JOURNAL OF 1854/55, an important and unique journal in the hand of Lt Col Sir George Chetwode (1823-1905), detailing his personal experiences whilst present at battles of the Crimea, (bound at a later date).

Spanning the period from September 1854 to around February 1855, the journal is set out in diary format with a day by day account of conditions, his own and his comrade's views, experiences and thoughts of the conflict.

Essentially concerning the battles of Alma, Charge of the Light Brigade, Inkerman and the long siege of Sebastopol. Commencing Saturday 9th September 1854 with Lord Raglan/Sir Lyons setting off for Sebastopol. Chetwode describes the Crimea as a ‘*bleak, barren and sandy looking place*’.

Provenance: Discovered by local vendor in the attic, brought into a valuation day in Burton-on-Trent), offered together with extensive research regarding medal roles and duplicate portrait photographs, (full details are available) £1000-2000”. The hammer price was £1500 and at press time we had no information as to the identity of the purchaser. The good news is that our own **Dr. Douglas Austin** has procured a transcript of that portion of the journal dealing with the Charge which he has promised to share in a forthcoming article.